



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, September 3, 2010

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### **District Man Sentenced in 2008 Shooting and Escape - Was Fugitive For 19 Months After Release From Jail To Attend His Father's Funeral -**

WASHINGTON - William A. Brice, Jr. 26, of the District, was sentenced today to 11 years and four months of incarceration for a daytime shooting that occurred on January 24, 2008, and for his subsequent escape from custody, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Brice was sentenced in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia by the Honorable Ann O'Regan Keary to 120 months' incarceration for aggravated assault while armed, and to 30 months' incarceration for unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, to be served concurrently.

Judge Keary also sentenced Brice to 16 months' incarceration for escape from a penal institution, to be served consecutively to the other sentences. Once he gets out of prison, he must serve five years of supervised release and pay \$300 to the D.C. Victim of Violent Crimes Compensation Fund.

Brice pleaded guilty to the offenses on June 23, 2010.

The charges arose from a shooting at about 9 a.m. on January 24, 2008, near a park in the 5300 block of Dix Street NE. Brice, a convicted felon, became involved in an altercation with the victim in the park. Brice pulled out a .45 caliber Taurus pistol and shot at the victim multiple times. One shot struck the victim in the buttocks as he tried to get away from Brice, and it broke the victim's femur. The victim suffered excruciating pain, and still experiences physical and psychological trauma from the shooting.

After the shooting, Brice left the park area and walked one block to the rental office of a nearby apartment complex, which is where he was employed. Minutes later, police found him at the building. Police searched the office, and found the Taurus pistol – loaded with four rounds of ammunition. Police later arrested Brice after a witness to the shooting identified him as the shooter. On at least two occasions after the shooting, Brice admitted to witnesses that he had committed the shooting.

After his arrest, Brice was held without bond at D.C. Jail. On April 17, 2008, the D.C. Public

Defender Service which was then representing Brice, requested that Brice be temporarily released from D.C. Jail to attend his father's funeral the following day. A PDS attorney represented to a D.C. Superior Court judge that either he or another PDS employee would accompany Brice to the funeral and return him to D.C. Jail. The judge granted the release request, and released Brice to the custody of the attorney or the other PDS employee for a period of three hours on April 18, 2008.

On April 18, 2008, Brice was released from D.C. Jail to the custody of his PDS attorney. After attending the funeral with the attorney, Brice escaped. A multistate, 19-month manhunt ensued, which involved several local and federal law-enforcement agencies. Brice remained a fugitive from justice until November 2009, following his arrest in Norfolk, Va., for providing a false identity to local police officers.

In announcing the sentencing, U.S. Attorney Machen commended the excellent work of the Metropolitan Police Department officers who investigated the shooting: Detectives James McDonald, Anthony McGee, Andrew Richardson, and Sabrina Young; Sergeants Jaime Anderson (retired) and Denise Calhoun; and Officers Calvin Awkward, Kyle Burley, Ralph Flanigan, José Garcia, Calvin Hopkins, Donald Leach, and Darrell Roberts. U.S. Attorney Machen also expressed his gratitude to the law enforcement officials who investigated Brice's escape, and who ultimately brought Brice to justice: D.C. Department of Corrections Warrant Squad Investigators Earnest Durant, Jr., and Thomas O'Bryant; Deputy U.S. Marshal Justin Engen, and Officer Andrew T. Ferandes of the Norfolk State University Police Department in Norfolk, Va.

U.S. Attorney Machen also praised the outstanding work of U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Investigator Christopher Brophy, and the invaluable assistance of U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Investigator Lawrence Grasso. U.S. Attorney Machen recognized the assistance of Supervisory Paralegal Specialist Wanda Trice, and Paralegal Specialists Baretta Francis and Debra Smith. Finally, U.S. Attorney Machen expressed his special appreciation to Assistant U.S. Attorneys J.P. Cooney and Seth Adam Meinero, who investigated and prosecuted the case.